



OAR FY 2001 Budget Highlights



The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) requests \$302.5 million, \$14 million in the PAC account, and \$5.35 million in the Facilities account in FY 2001.

FY 2001 Increases

- Climate Observations and Services: NOAA is requesting \$28 million, \$24 million in the OAR budget activity, \$4 million in PAC, to transition research and experimental work on climate change and variability into permanent observing networks, operations, and practical products. Unprecedented demands are being placed on NOAA by a growing user community to upgrade its data and information delivery capacity and increase the detail and specificity of its climate forecasts. The Nation needs a long-term climate monitoring program in order to assess and predict the economic and societal impacts of climate variability. This initiative contains the following four sub-initiatives which will be carried out in coordination between OAR, NWS, and NESDIS:

- *Climate Reference Network*, which will establish 100 sites in FY 2001 to monitor climate indicators across the U.S.;
- *Improving the Availability of Climate Data and Information*, to process and make available more climate and weather-related data sets and forecast products to the public and scientific community;
- *Baseline Observatories*, to upgrade and provide enhanced measurement programs at the sites which maintain NOAA's longest time-series of global atmospheric climate indicators; and
- *Ocean Observations*, to deploy monitoring buoys in key or undersampled areas of the oceans to enhance NOAA's ability to predict climate through understanding the oceans' physical processes.

- Weather Research: NOAA is requesting an increase of \$1.0 million for funding directed toward initiatives important to the Natural Disaster Reduction Initiative (NDRI), including the interagency U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP) to improve the forecast accuracy and lead-time for hurricane landfall location and intensity. This will lead to more accurate predictions for emergency preparedness, ultimately saving lives and property.

- Marine Aquaculture: OAR requests an increase of \$1.6 million for new projects to demonstrate the production of native commercial ocean species. The resulting techniques will be useful in enhancement or stocking efforts of highly exploited wild fishes, and promises to strengthen the U.S. fisheries production by increasing the availability of desirable ocean fishes and relieving pressures on wild stocks.

- Aquatic Nuisance Species: OAR is requesting an increase of \$0.2 million to curtail the spread of invasive species in U.S. waters through technology, research, outreach, and development of control programs by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Non-indigenous species, frequently having no natural predators, pose serious threats to regional economies by disrupting natural ecosystems and displacing indigenous commercial species.

- Fisheries Oceanography: NOAA requests an increase of \$0.5 million to develop, deploy and maintain a network of bio-physical moorings in the North Pacific Ocean. This system will provide data on oceanographic indicators affecting fish stocks and will give fishery managers warnings of environmentally-induced changes in the populations of commercially important fish stocks.

- Sea Floor Observatories: An increase of \$3.1 million will maintain existing, shallow-water observatories and develop new deep-sea observatories. This advanced technology will provide new information on deep-sea environments and yield new applications in engineering and biotechnology.

- Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE): A \$2 million increase is proposed in NOAA funding for the GLOBE Program in FY 2000 to support continued growth in the number of participating U.S. schools and the breadth of the science data being collected for the international science community.

- Space Weather Dissemination System - NOAA is requesting a \$0.1 million increase for the Space Environment Center, located in Boulder, Colorado, to commission and maintain a new data dissemination system.

- Boulder Facilities: NOAA is requesting a \$1.5 million increase to address the shortfall in rent and facilities operations at the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado.

- PAC Account: Norman Consolidation: NOAA is requesting \$3 million, the first installment of a multi-year initiative, to prepare for the move of NOAA research and NWS operational activities into consolidated, permanent housing in Norman, Oklahoma which are to be co-located with the University of Oklahoma.

- PAC Account: GFDL Supercomputer: NOAA requests an increase of \$2 million to lease and provide software support for a supercomputer to be located at GFDL in Princeton, New Jersey. This will be the second year of the procurement. The computer will be used full-time for developing and testing new and improved models of climate variability, climate change, and hurricanes.

FY 2001 Decreases

NOAA requests decreases in the following programs: Climate Change Research Center, the STORM program at the University of Northern Iowa, Global Wind Profile research, the Radiophysics Laboratory at Dartmouth University, Ballast Water Studies, Tsunami Hazard Mitigation, the Lake Champlain Study, Gulf of Maine Council, Aquatic Ecosystems at Canaan Valley, Pacific Tropical Ornamental Fish, Open Ocean Aquaculture, and the National Undersea Research Program.

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